

R H E T O R I C

Vol. 3, No. 6

Dec. 8, 1976

Caveat emptor

How to stretch dollars on Christmas shopping

By Beverly Cronin

How would you like to get more for your shopping money this Christmas season? It is quite easy to do and there are no gimmicks involved. The key is to become an efficient shopper.

An efficient shopper compares prices and quality and makes choices based on various factors to secure the optimal return for each dollar spent.

The four major characteristics of an efficient shopper are:

1. know what you want to buy before you begin shopping.
2. secure the knowledge which will enable you to make a wise choice ;
3. know your legal rights as a consumer;
4. with these other factors in mind shop around and compare.

It is a good practice to always bring a list with you to the store and buy only what is on the list. This will help you to avoid impulse purchases. Impulse items are all those baskets full of nonessential goods near the check-out registers and at the end of the aisles. Purchasing these items will only increase your expenditure unnecessarily.

Value of Goods

A wise consumer is competent to decide on the value of the goods to be purchased. She can judge quality in relation to price.

"Consumer Reports" magazine is an invaluable source of product information. CR should be consulted periodically if not regularly to aid you in making competent purchasing decisions. Armed with specific knowledge about an item you, as a consumer, will be better equipped to resist fraudulent and deceptive practices.

Every item in a discount store is not always a savings. On a total bill of goods you can usually save some money in a discount store. But individual items vary. The only way to combat this is to have an idea of the price and compare each price accordingly.

Another good practice is to always check the unit pricing stickers. Unit pricing enables buyers to see the price of an item by the pound, ounce, quart, or any other unit of measure.

Time Factor

Money is not the only item expended while shopping. The time factor and the cost of transportation must also be considered. The few pennies you may save in driving the five extra miles for an item may not be worth the time it took you to get there. However, these priorities are subjective and must be acted on accordingly.

A wise and efficient consumer will shop around and compare. Keep that in mind this shopping season and you may surprise yourself by saving a few pennies.



Scholarships are available

Do you need money for next semester?

Well, you may be eligible for one of five scholarships.

There will be a \$175 Basketball scholarship, a \$300 Performing Artist scholarship, a \$100 Patrick and Mary Hammond Scholarship for an outstanding band member, a \$120 Elliot M. Joy Scholarship for a Mathematics major and a

\$300 Carl T. Witherell Scholarship for an Industrial Arts major, preferably of the Epsilon Pi Tau Society.

More information and application forms are available at the Associate Dean of Students.

The forms must be completed and returned to the office prior to Monday, December 13, 1976.

Rhetoric seeks 'chief'

Do you feel qualified to be editor of a school newspaper? If so, your student newspaper, the Rhetoric, invites your participation. Applications are available in the Rhetoric office.

Presently, a Student Government Selection Committee is accepting those applications for the position of Editor-In-Chief. The deadline for application acceptance has been set for Friday, December 17, 1976. Interviews will be conducted by the committee on Sunday, January 16, 1977 between 3 and 5 p.m. in the Rhetoric office.

The position will require a good deal of dedication. If undecided or seeking further details, please drop by the Rhetoric office (basement of the Campus Center) and talk to a present staff member about the position.

Turkish rugs on display

Beauty under foot of beholder?

Does the word "Turk" have barbaric connotations for you? Can it possibly bring beauty to mind? It can if one was able to witness a display of lovely Turkish rugs at Fitchburg State College.

The transformation of somewhat ugly term into an aesthetic dreamworld took place recently in the Gallery Room of the Campus Center. On opening night of the Turkish Rug Display, Dr. Bill Keough, was present along with his Turkish rugs for all to see. The rugs themselves were hung splendidly on the walls.

Married himself to his Turkish wife Birsan, Keough, an English professor at FSC, discovered the magnificence of the woolen beauties through his wife. They then gradually built a fine collection.

"I wouldn't really call the rugs, an investment, because they might not sell too readily," says Keough, "It's a matter of just loving them."

Lots of Work

Keough pointed out the enormous amount of work involved in producing one Turkish rug. One small one-inch strip the width of the rug

may take a woman rug-maker as much as eight hours. For most of the rugs, there are 40 knots to a square inch. But Keough is quick to add that, "It's easier because the worker is talking with people at the same time." However, Keough is a bit hesitant in suggesting that one of his students might be adept at such a task.

As student observers lounged around the room gazing inquiringly at the dozen or so rugs, they were treated to wine, cheese, chips, and dip. Further Dr. Keough conveyed points of interest such as the perversity of pattern, the exhaustion of one particular thread and the substitution of another, and the relative cost of such a rug ranging from \$100 to \$750.

Impressed

Keough was also impressed himself with the set-up of the rug display including the appropriate space left between the rugs. He then duly thanked Mr. Raoul Rebillard, director of the Campus Center.

This writer departed with the feeling of having been exposed to yet another dimension of the world's beauty. For all those who are able to someday view Turkish rugs, the feeling will likely be mutual. Dr. Keough, thank you.

everyone's name, and keep remembering them for years and years. To be frank, I have never had that ability, and each semester I would be hard pressed to come up with more than a few names of my current students. To a certain extent I rationalize the situation by telling myself that my marking is fairer because I

only have my grade book record to go by when final marks are turned into the registrar.

Students, on the other hand, always assume that they are known to their instructor, and many times I have been surprised by

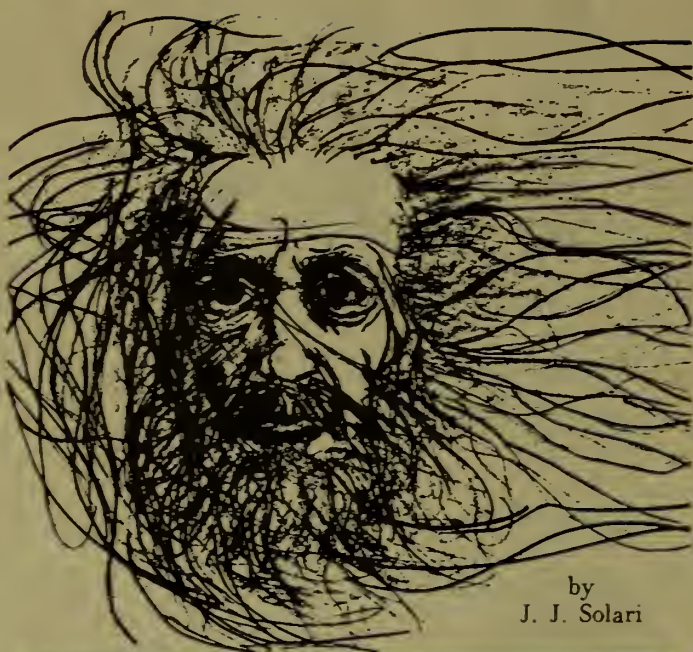
See HE WAS, Page 9.

He was one of a kind-- a name with a face

(Editor's Note: Plagued by a gaggle of well-meaning anonymice this closing week, we can only think that a professor in praise of a former student, no matter how shy, deserves to be heard out.)

I have always admired those people, especially teachers, who can remember

We get letters...



by
J. J. Solari

Comment and Opinion

An Editorial

In defense of 'heads'

The staff of the Rhetoric has recently overheard grumblings about our headline writing. Hopefully, these short words will somewhat allay the intensity of the complaints.

The Rhetoric does not possess a large staff; therefore, editors must also cover their share of news and feature stories. Consequently, each reporter is asked to compose his or her own headline. This is usually an editor's job. For the most part, the editors do review the headlines but do not profess to be professionals.

At any rate, the Rhetoric does possess one ace-in-the-hole, namely the Clinton ITEM, our printer. Since a dull or misleading headline will damage the impact of a story, they carefully review our "heads." Often, they will revise them quite proficiently because they are adept at this particular art.

Headlines like "Women in transition, Major breakthrough seen in student participation, and Psyche club seeks members" have aroused a measure of discontent. Yet, all of them do meet a criterion of good headline writing. They do, in fact, give the reader a clear idea of what to expect in the story.

The Rhetoric staff realizes that it will never be exempt from criticism because involvement itself does entail unavoidable criticism. Nevertheless, it is also our duty to replay to this criticism in a constructive manner.

Bringing you the Rhetoric

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On handguns

To the Editor:

From current newspaper usage, anyone who owns a gun is a member of "powerful, well-financed" lobby. Using that decree for rationalization, my using milk in my coffee makes me a member of the "dairy lobby." Were I to use artificial coffee lightener, I could then join the "chemical manufacturers' lobby."

Conservation

Much of the money for conservation comes from the pockets of the gun-owners. There is far more destruction to wildlife from each new parking lot for a shopping center than can be expected from a tightly controlled hunting season. Strangely enough, loss of habitat is not publically considered as contributory to wildlife losses. The same people who are highly vocal about hunting can be expected to show up at their tea parties wearing furs from endangered species; however, that is another story.

Large shopping malls, such as Searstown, have destroyed many acres of both watershed and wildlife preserve. Since it (Searstown) is located in a flood plain, a really good, heavy rain will move Searstown to Nashua. This is not beyond the realm of probability. This will be bad for business but one big step forward for conservation.

Confiscation

Gun, confiscation is not a solution. New York has the Sullivan Laws which are completely ineffective in limiting crime. Switzerland, where every able-bodied male is a member of the militia and possesses guns at home, has one of the world's lowest crime rates.

People vs. Handguns quote the number of deaths per year from deaths by firearms accidents. Note the number of deaths by automobiles. Obviously, what is needed is firearm instruction by a competent organization supported by NRA and your local sportsmen's clubs, where such programs do exist. The sine quanon for instruction is familiarization.

Penalties

Sportsmen strongly favor increased judicial penalties for felony commission involving use of deadly weapons. When Section 5b of the last referendum issue on the ballot was deleted by the courts, the judiciary accomplished what the people could not — contributory paralysis of crime control and law enforcement. I had never before

realized that the term "law and order" was derogatory. I am aware, however, that a law-abiding populace would damage the interests of the pettifoggers.

Most gun-owners are doctors, merchants, homeowners, and farmers. Presumably, this is the "wild-eyed gun lobby" and criminal element which defeated Article 5. It appears that there is a dividing line on mentalities at Rte. 128 as one goes east.

Accidents

● Most accidents occur in kitchens and on the highways. Using the rationale of People vs. Handguns, these will be the next items for vilification or traducement.

In constructive summary, what is needed is firearms instruction, in proper and safe use of firearms, by competent teachers. This might well be introduced into the school system as a prerequisite for a gun permit. Of necessity, familiarization is a necessary component of instruction.

More commentary and letters appear on Page Eight.

Good for Women

For women or girls, the art of musketry is ideal. Steadiness of aim and estimation of windage are not sexually restrictive. Musketry is not a team sport; achievement is based solely on the quality of the firearm and one's own merits. In addition, the usual girl has a built-in recoil pad which is lacking in the male. Women's teams generally score in the same over-all range as the men's. Further, musketry is not an expensive sport; virtually each town has its own range and team. Only where body size is a factor does a handicap for the smaller person exist. However, the shooter is rare who uses a 10-gauge shotgun or a .375 Magnum or .600 H & H Nitro-Express double rifle. To my knowledge, elephants or rhinos at large are rare in New England.

Daniel N. Weitzner

Beyond the four walls

Staff Activities

John McGrail of the English Department read his verse on Worcester Radio Station WICN (FM 90.5), Saturday evening, November 27. The program was sponsored by the Worcester County Poetry Assoc.

Dr. Pasquale E. Micciche (History Department) attended a conference on the use of popular film in the teaching of history. The conference, supported by the Danforth Foundation, was hosted by the History Department at Harvard.

Lee N. Cunningham gave the following presentation, "Biological Awareness - An Overview" at the annual fall meeting of the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine at Wellesley College on Saturday, November 13. The presentation was a part of a symposium on the Curricular Aspects of Sports Medicine.

"Industrial Electronics," a text by Dr. Edward Driscoll, has been included in "New Technical Books" (Vol. 61, No. 8), a selective, annotated listing of English language technical books compiled and published by the Research Libraries of the New York Public Library.

Dr. Caroline Murphy, Social Sciences Department, attended a two-day Chautauqua Short Course at the Hampshire Center at Mount Holyoke College. The course was titled: "Modeling and Simulation; A Systems Science Approach" and was sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Professors John Uhran, Jr., and William Iavissen of Notre Dame University were the guest speakers.

Dr. James Barbato (geography) addressed Dr. Robert Champlin's graduate Environmental Seminar on Monday, November 8, 1976. His topic was, "Mesoscale Wind Systems and Their Role in the Diffusion of Urban Atmospheric Contamination".

Dr. Rosemarie Giovino of the Special Education Department conducted a secondary workshop for Resource Teachers and Supervisors of Special Education in Rhode Island on November 11, 1976. One-hundred secondary Personnel participated in this all day inservice program.

Dr. Jeanne Hambright and Dr. John Burke of the Humanities Department recently attended a colloquium on the Nazi propaganda film at Tufts University. The noted film documentarist, Dr. Erwin Leisner, of the University of London, introduced and discussed his films, "Mein Kampf" and "Deutschland Erwachene", with participants of the seminar.

Sports

Rick Gallant, Editor
Linda Quinn
Tony Gannon

Photography

Jim Booth, Editor
Paul D'Alessandro
Lorelei Leach
Phil Salloway

Sketches

Linda Fiore
Attaphol Suntakolkarn

From the Corner Office



A few words on involvement

During this past summer I had the opportunity to talk with a young man who was seeking some counsel about his early days in college as a freshman. As you might expect, this college administrator couldn't pass up this opportunity, and I responded with two strong points. The first was that he do as well as he could academically, I had to remind him that a bachelor's degree is no longer a guarantee for professional employment. It is still very important but because of the competition in the marketplace one needs to be at the top of his class to receive easy employment opportunities with a bachelor's degree.

The second thing that I stressed was that he take advantage of the marvelous opportunities that come to undergraduates to be involved; that is, to do more than go to class and the library and do his academic work. I discussed with him the many chances that are open to all students including freshmen to get involved in a host of extra curricular activities most of which would add greatly to his maturing experiences during his college life.

It pleases me to know now that that young man is doing creditably in his academic work, while at the same time being involved with athletic, musical and student government activities. This rather complete approach to the participation in college life will undoubtedly enhance his total experience, and provide him years from now wonderful memories of friendships and human interactions that will have made him a better person.

Participate

This holds true, too, for all of you who are reading this edition of the RHETORIC. You all have the opportunity to become active participants in the totality of what we call college experience. Whenever you engage in small talk in the cafeteria, you will discover that there are those students who claim that "cliques" are running the student aspects of the college. These complainers argue that only a few people are in charge of the student Government, or only a few run the residence hall life patterns, or only a few control the various student organizations on campus, or only a few... I can go on with a litany of the ignorant condemnation that is made by one group of disaffected students.

In the same cafeteria at the same time one can hear from other quarters the pleas of student leadership in all of these same organizations asking for more people to participate in the successful completion of important student undertakings which are an essential part of college outside of academic work.

Nothing New

The situation is not a new one. If you talk with your professors about this, even those of us who might be among your elder professors, they will tell you that while they were undergraduate students the same conditions prevailed. Remember that while colleges are unique institutions, they do reflect the larger society. Man has been generally an indifferent creature for ages. So it should not surprise us that the majority do not participate; requiring that the interested minority provide the leadership to accomplish the various tasks at hand.

Such leadership is for some a natural talent, but for others it can be a developed skill. It requires that you take the first step toward leadership by being an active participant.

We are now heading into the festive holiday season and the close of our first semester. It is a busy time requiring on the one hand a great deal of effort in completing academic assignments, on the other, strong commitment to help a host of programs that take place during this season. Let me join the voices of the other faculty members and administrators who encourage you to participate and become as involved as your time and talent allow. Fitchburg State College will be a better institution because of your involvement, and you will find your own reward in being a richer human being because of it.

...A couple of extra notes: Don't forget open-house sessions from 3:30 - 5:00 in my office each Monday... thanks to the Adelphians for a lovely evening at this fall's formal... and hearty congratulations to the Players' Guild for their terrific job on "Brigadoon" -- a sensational job and I look forward to other good theatre ahead!

Mobile 1 is 10-8

Ruling okays CB in car

"Breaker One-Nine for the one and only Bilbo Baggins from Leominster." Hi good buddy, nice to be back with you for another issue.

I apologize for the order of the Ten Code in the last issue. The article was not set up the way I typed it, but you did get a copy of the present Ten Code being used by CB'ers.

The big news for this time around is that CB'ers everywhere can continue to use their radios while on the road. A New Hampshire man who received a traffic summons for using his radio while driving his car was found not guilty. In fact, the judge said there was not justifiable reason for the issue of that summons.

If sentence would have been carried out because he was found guilty, then everyone who owns a standard shift car would also be guilty of driving inattentively.

Even public works departments, firemen, and policemen would be guilty whenever they use their two-way radios. So, for a while, old smokie has been foiled.

Heading West

Next semester I hope to be able to provide you with some news from the mid-west, as that's where I'm headed over the Christmas holiday period. By that time the new 40 Channel sets will also be on the market, so maybe I will have some new information on them. Also there

is some talk of rule changes, but I haven't heard too much on that.

If you have been shopping recently, you will most likely have noticed by now that the present 23 channel sets are selling at ridiculously low prices. These units have been selling for as much as half of their regular price. So now is the time to buy. The price is so low because the manufacturers are trying to sell all of their old sets in order to sell the new 23 and 40 Channel sets at much higher prices. The only trouble with the new sets is that their power output is about one-half of the present power output. This means that the most you will be able to get out for distance will be about two to three miles, if you're lucky. As is said in the stock market, now is the time to buy.

Slide Mount

If you do buy a set, or presently own one, one of the most important things you can buy to go with your set is a slide mount. This allows you to take your radio with you, and prevent it from being stolen. This little device is an inexpensive means of insurance to protect your valuable investment.

So here's laying three's and eight's on you until next time. Any questions you may have should be sent to Box 3777. So when smokie is down and out, put the hammer down and guzzle those suds. I'm going 10-7 for now, but I'll catch you on the flip-flop. So long from Bilbo Baggins and the Hobbit Mobile 1.

From the Newsletter

Consumer Project

According to the University of Texas Adult Practical Literacy Research Project (APL), about 35 million adult Americans are unable to cope as functional consumers.

The 'ability to cope' was measured through a series of test questions related to general knowledge areas--of which consumer education was one.

EXAMPLE: If you buy a can of soup for 39 cents and a can of beans for 23 cents, how much change will you get back from a dollar bill? To researchers' dismay, results indicate that nearly 1 in 4 American adults could not respond accurately to this or questions of comparable difficulty.

Something is now being done to provide these adults with the skills they need to function productively. The Adult Consumer Education Project, directed by Dr. Aubrey Gardner, recently became funded by a grant from the DHEW-OE Consumer Education Office, a new addition to OE; many people feel that establishment of the Consumer ED Office reflects increasing national attention to the problems faced by adult consumers.

State Colleges Band Festival

On Thursday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. Salem State College was the host for the annual State College Band Festival. Bands from Salem, Fitchburg, Westfield and Worcester performed in the Salem State Auditorium.

Communication Apprehension

R.S. Tapply of the English Department attended the fall conference of the Eastern Speech Association held at the Hotel Lenox Friday, Nov. 5. While at the conference he met with Dr. James McCroskey to discuss the research being done here at Fitchburg on Communication Apprehension. At the present time, Fitchburg State College is the only school in the country that has tested all incoming freshman and transfer students for communication apprehension. This information is to be used to guide instructors in their handling of severe instances of this problem in students and to monitor its effects on the dropout rate.

Donna Friedman's Contemporary Art Class attended the America '76 exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Art and Fogg Museum, Boston.

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Mailer in tip-top form for position on sex

A Rhetoric Review
By Beverly Cronin

Norman Mailer has revealed a large part of his inner self in his book "The Prisoner of Sex."

At times, he may seem somewhat presumptuous in attributing to his readers a specialized background of the sexual wilderness upon which to draw as an aid in putting many of the objects of his attack in proper perspective. However, a lack of this knowledge will not drastically hinder the reader's ability to comprehend and appreciate what Mailer is trying to say.

Actually, he is defending himself as the object of ideological attack by a number of feminists whom he sees fit to describe as "a squadron of enraged Amazons, an honorary guard of revolutionary... vaginas." His defensive position is largely provoked by allegations from Kate Millett, author of "Sexual Politics."

It is not that Mailer shuns criticism, indeed he welcomes it. He says "His (Mailer's) strength was to love the job a good critic could do on him... his literary vitality seemed to derive from

being exposed." What Mailer objects to is the below-the-belt type of jabs that the women critics think they can get away with. Incorporated in his defense are his own views, perhaps in an attempt to reconcile the two, or to delve a little deeper into the collective American psyche.

Chauvinist

The defensive overtones do not cloud Mailer's interesting and heart-felt opinions. Mailer, the chauvinist, is felt throughout the book. At one point, he clearly states this position as "Still, his (Mailer's) sympathies remained with his own sex." Given this attitude it is surprising that Mailer recognizes many women as economically oppressed and concedes that "In America - where one did not expect such differences (in pay) - even men opposed to Women's Liberation were willing to agree that the economic exploitation of the female was a condition in need of amendment." This is as far as Mailer will go, he sees the women's sexual and cultural revolution as a rather dangerous movement.

Traditionalist

Mailer espouses traditional, almost reactionary, views on sex

and the relationship between men and women. One has the feeling that Mailer might like to strangle Ti-Grace Atkinson, a feminist, when she suggests that all humans should be as men and women might have to perceive themselves as "Men who bore the burden of the reproductive process." One of Mailer's tamer replies to this statement is "Whatever could be the fruit of the logic?"

Mailer attacks as ludicrous the Amazon's proposition that men are not really necessary for a women's sexual satisfaction. These women purport that the clitoris with its abundance of tiny sensors is the key to satisfaction. Not so says Mailer and he heaves a sigh of relief with Germaine Greer's contention that "The orgasm is qualitatively different when the vagina can undulate around the penis instead of a vacancy." Mailer believes that sexuality is more than sexual stimulation and release, it is an integral part of the human experience.

In his presentation Mailer explores love in its essence and its carnality. His positions are valid and consistent with his character as revealed in "The Prisoner of Sex."

"Mailer is clever and at times one has the feeling that he makes statements merely to observe the reaction they produce from his audience. A prime example of this practice is "The fact of the matter is that the prime responsibility of a woman probably is to be on earth long enough to find the best mate possible for herself, and conceive children who will improve the species." Such a statement is a gold mine of material for his feminist assailants.

Paradox

The epigrammatic quality of some of Mailer's statements are puzzling at first, but are actually quite in keeping with his views. Mailer says "We will be able to reduce the birthrate only when we stop practicing contraception." Paradoxical? Perhaps. But this is exactly what he means and he explains with an illustration. He has the idea that

women of old were probably able to plan the future through control over the process of conception. He has a nice thought that women could determine exactly which ovum with all its innate characteristics would be penetrated by a sperm at any particular time. Mailer suggests that technology and artificial contraceptives have robbed women of this special ability and as a result women conceive at random.

Again, if at first Mailer's opposition to masturbation seems clothed in traditional taboos, it actually is not. He thinks that "Masturbation is bombing, it's bombing oneself..." He sees no one as benefiting from it. This opposition is a logical extension of his own feelings about the transmission of positive and negative qualities between partners in copulation. As Mailer says "All I know is that when one makes love, one changes a woman slightly and a woman changes you slightly... So finally one has had an experience which is nourishing." His arguments are sound, there are really no flaws.

Defense

The book is set-up to enable Mailer to effectively shake the foundations of the feminists attack, with special emphasis on Kate Millett. He shows how skillful Millett is in manipulating quotes from Mailer and other works to reinforce her own warped ideas. Also, Mailer devotes a whole section to defend both D.H. Lawrence and Henry Miller against the wrath of Millett.

Mailer's prolific use of obscenities is almost essential for an unbridled transmission of his own feelings to the reader, which is the essence of his book. If obscenities are no obstacle, sit back and enjoy Mailer's views for what they are. Mailer, in "The Prisoner of Sex," is witty, almost charming, and very daring.



FHS vs. LHS

Better yesterday than next year

By BERNIE SCHULTZ
Rhetoric News Editor

A \$1 fee for parking and \$3 for two standing room only tickets to view a high school football game! Is it worth it? Quite frankly, I had my reservations at kick off time of the Thanksgiving Day Classic (1976) between Fitchburg High School and arch-rival Leominster High School.

I walk towards the end zone where I will stand for the next couple of hours on this cold November morning. I smile at the number of people standing on milk cartons to view the contest. I do not need them for I am tall enough.

Carefully positioning myself in front of a man ten feet tall (he's standing on a five foot chair), I begin to view the contest. Quickly, my alma mater F.H.S. is losing 21-0! The wind grows stronger and the sun hides. After Fitchburg scores two touchdowns to pull within 7 points at 21-14, the sun returns, the wind dies down, and colors are bright once again. But a field goal by Leominster leaves the score 24-14 at half-time.

As I edge closer to the rope impeding my progress to the playing field, I hear the school bands play and remember back when just four short years ago. Somehow, my present cheers are somewhat strained in comparison.

Strong Rush

The second half is dismal for F.H.S. Leominster appears much too strong. Les Ricks makes some superlative pass receptions for F.H.S. Ah, but you're probably a better basketball player, Les. At least in our one-on-one confrontation, you excell brilliantly. But, Leominster's Artie Thomas responds with workhorse rushing gains putting him over the top of a 1,000 yard high school rushing career. Good luck at Harvard, Artie!

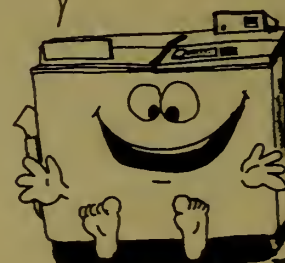
If only Fitchburg had displayed a little more confidence entering the contest (serving to quiet opening minute jitters), the outcome may have been reversed. At any rate, Leominster High deservingly and convincingly wins the game by a count of 38-22. Leominster finishes 8-2 and Fitchburg 3-7.

As I enter the semi-warmth of my own automobile, I recall my own senior year at F.H.S. and our championship football team. It may not occur again for some time but I'll continue to relish it as long as these formidable Leominster High School football teams continue to be assembled. Victory is so sweet!

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Finals--to read or not for the Question

By BRIDGET M. HUGHES
Rhetoric News Staff

What do you think of the current way that finals are scheduled? Should there be a reading period scheduled between the end of classes and beginning of finals? These questions were asked on a survey randomly distributed last week via the campus mailboxes.

Although only two hundred surveys were given out and fifty returned, the support was great for extra reading time to prepare for finals. The best and more frequent suggestion made (on 37 surveys) was that classes should end on a Friday, leaving the weekend to study before finals started.

The reasoning behind not wanting a full week off for reading was that people living in the dorms probably wouldn't stay around to study, and, a few people commented that after a week off they wouldn't be in the right frame of mind to take finals. Also, a day or two would be ideal time to get organized and make sure that all reports and projects has been passed in.

Rescheduled

When talking with Dr. Joseph Durant it was mentioned that until a few years ago, students had to come back in January for finals which dampened their Christmas spirit. However, it was a joint decision between the faculty and students that the system should change. At that time, the emphasis was on rescheduling the finals and not the formation of a reading period.

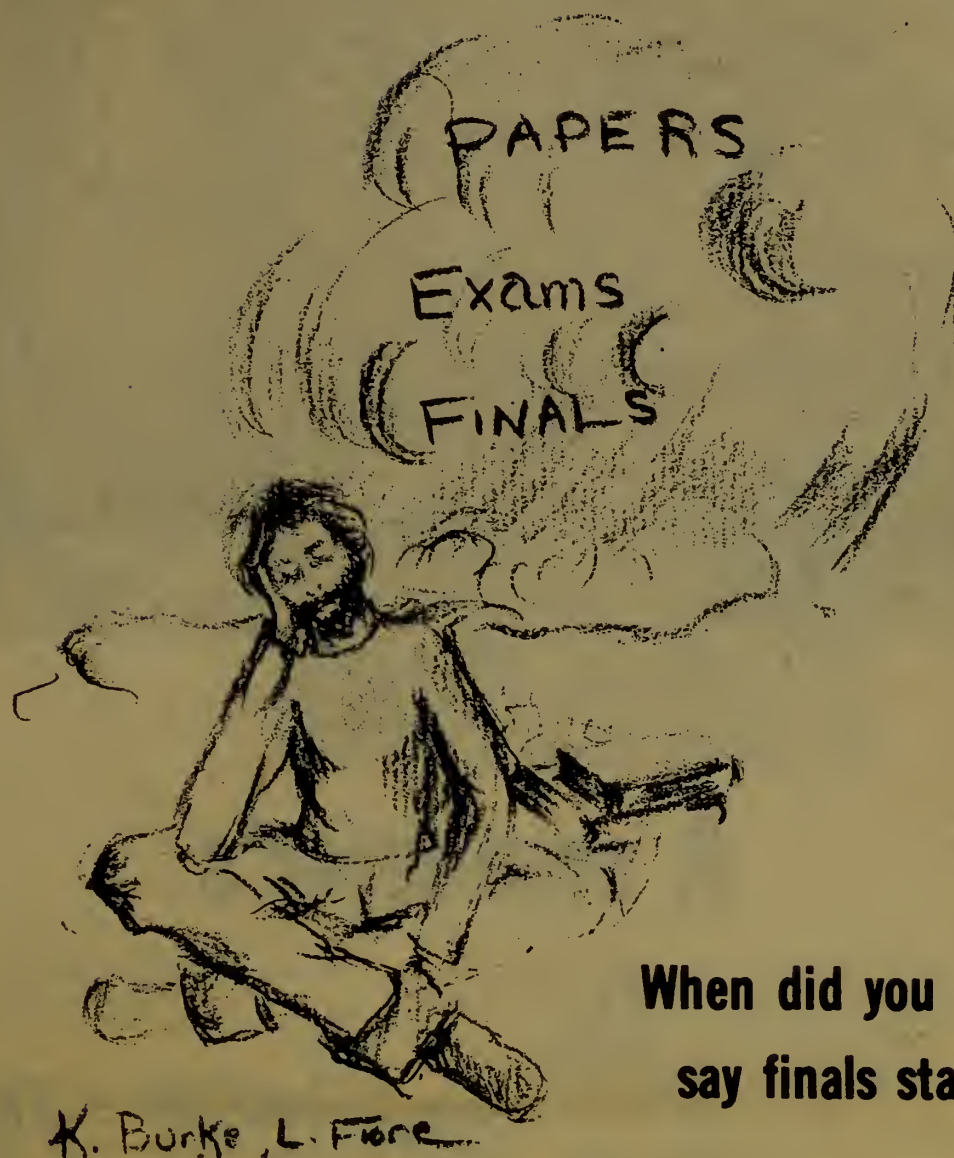
Four of the surveys returned were from out-of-state dorm students. Their comments agreed that more reading time would be helpful. But the way finals are scheduled now enables them to get home earlier.

There was a wide-spread agreement that the option of taking two of the three scheduled finals on one day is good. Even though trying to get one rescheduled can be quite a hassle, it still takes a little of the burden of studying away.

Last Day

The only other unusual comment was from a junior who suggested that finals be scheduled as such so they can be given on the last day of classes. This would eliminate the computerized schedule for finals and possibly enable school to end one week ahead of time. The only problem with this plan would be the usual two hour time allotted for finals, and, if someone had more than three classes on one day, they would find it hard to study.

The comments on the surveys that were returned were interesting. Some of the ideas were feasible enough to be considered as alternatives to the present finals scheduling process. The general consensus was that people were glad, with or without a reading period, that finals were over before semester break.



When did you
say finals start?

Chancellor Hammond is honored

By DIANE PATS

James J. Hammond, Chancellor of the Massachusetts State Colleges, was honored recently at the dedication of the Finnish Cultural Center in the library of the Hammond Building at Fitchburg State College.

The Finnish Cultural Center came into being through the efforts of Mr. Hammond in 1964. It was his wishes to start preserving ethnic cultures in the Fitchburg area. A group of

Finnish people met and formed the Finnish Cultural Center. The Center has grown to a membership of Approximately 300 and has the Finnish Memorial Library within the Hammond Building.

The dedication of the Finnish Cultural Center was held in the Finnish Memorial Library room. Honoring of Mr. Hammond took place in the Campus Center Lounge on the main floor at 5:45. The committee in charge of the

college activities includes: Paul Hanslin, Martha Patari, Barbara Palomaki, Edwin Ruuska, Barbara Tirronen, Lillian Salthe, William Casey, Irene Salminen, Eino Niinimaki, and Onerva and Robert Lovejoy.

Adelphians aboard

You can find the Adelpian Society first on the list for Sororities and Fraternities in your Student Survival Manual.

Be it the case you didn't receive a handbook, we'd like you to know that we're one of the finest Sororities on the F.S.C. campus, and have one of the finest sponsors, who is Dr. Christine Cosgrove.

We're an active club in and about campus participating in functions such as, All College Parties, Intramural Sports, and an overall involvement with the community and campus. We even give you a peek at our pledges with whom we are totally delighted to have as our Sisters now.

Let us all share the welcome

with you as they enter a truly meaningful experience during their college and future life.

Welcome! Mary Early, Sharon Haverty, Becky Howe, Debbie Mansfield, Ana Nunez, Nancy Santella, Diane Stabile, Sue Thibodeau, and Grace Twomey. May all these girls come to know and love the club as all the Sisters of the Adelpian Society do.

City planning jobs outlined

City Planning Careers Outlined

On Thursday November 18 Richard Moriarty, planning coordinator for the city of Fitchburg, was the guest speaker of the Geography Club. He discussed education, job opportunities, and some problems encountered in city planning.

In order to qualify for most planning careers, Moriarty stated that a Master's Degree was necessary; he also stressed the importance of experience in a professional office setting. Mr. Moriarty holds a Master's Degree in city planning from the State University of New York.

Although in the sixties there was a great demand for city planners, according to

Moriarty, the trend is changing. In fact, there are now approximately five qualified persons for each planning position.

Moriarty outlined the objectives of re-development in Fitchburg which placed major emphasis on rehabilitation and not demolition of existing structures. In addition, he spoke of the conflict of interest in terms of improved environmental quality and economic growth of Fitchburg.

Mr. Moriarty's talk concluded with a question and answer period. When asked if he experienced any political pressures in making decisions as the planning coordinator, Moriarty replied that although there are pressures, one must try not to be influenced by them.

Short
shots

Mayor dumps

The Mayor of Fitchburg recently caused \$1000 worth of damage to a city vehicle when he struck a parked car on Kimball St. He took his eyes off the road to view trash accumulated in the street. City police issued him a warning. But the subject was not closed. The Mayor assured his constituents "that the accident shouldn't cost the city a nickel." He was going to have a city employee fix the car. (wages, materials?) He also encouraged the owner of the parked car to have his auto fixed by the city.

SGA saves

In a move designed to desist from unnecessary spending, the Student Government Association Council at FSC recently refused to pass a motion to provide the SGA Council members with a cup of coffee during Council meetings. Savings will be in the excess of \$2 weekly. Council later protected this substantial savings by tabling a motion to have meetings every other week.

In concert

Dr. Harry Semerjian's Art of Music I class will present Creative Music Compositions on Wednesday, December 8 from 3:00 to 5:00. It will be held in the Hammond Building, rooms G-05 and G-06.

Neasylon notices

The Neasylon Society will be sponsoring a Bake Sale on Thursday, December 16. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Globe Santa. Posters will be posted around campus announcing the time and place of the sale.

The Sisters of Phi Omega Psi would like to wish the entire campus a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a nice semester break.

The Neasylyons



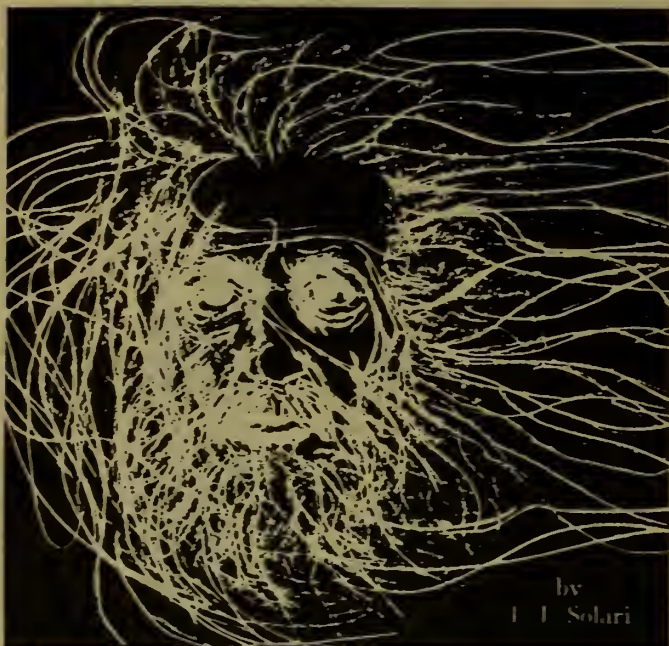
A semester's spirit of '76



Some moments to remember







by
L. J. Solari

Comment and Opinion

Get involved

After you've completed those homework assignments, you may have secured some spare time. Why not get involved with an activity on campus? There are many clubs and organizations on campus crying for new members.

Your special talents may be just the panacea for their membership ills. It may even lead to a humanitarian act that will really make you feel good. Wouldn't it be nice to provide a little kid with his only present this Christmas?

An Editorial

Thompson swelters

Have you ever sat in a classroom in Thompson Hall and were not quite sure whether you were in the Arctic or the Tropics? If so, you are not alone. The situation is as follows.

The radiators are steaming and the pipes are clanking while those big old windows are flung open. The cold air rushes in providing a brief respite from the heat. Alas, pity those unfortunate souls sitting near the windows who are shivering within two minutes, while the students near the radiators are wondering what they should shed next in an attempt to cool off. Absurd you say? Quite so.

The reason for this situation is a mystery. Possible explanations are either someone in charge is extremely cold-blooded, or the boilers are grossly malfunctioning, or the thermostat is improperly set. Whatever the cause, one thing is certain, this represents a colossal waste of two sacred resources -- money and fuel. Given the financial condition of the school and the state it is inconceivable how and why this situation is allowed to continue.

The steamed-up glass in the doors and windows in the foyer of Thompson Hall indicates the severity of the situation. Thompson Hall is a school house not a sauna.

We realize that the heating system in an institution is not easily regulated. However, this is a situation in dire need of rectification and we sincerely hope that action in that direction will be taken.

On swine flu

To The Editor:

Nearly 400 members of the college community were vaccinated against Swine Flu in the Campus Center, December 1, 1976, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The State Department of Public Health - in cooperation with the Health Center and the Health Services Committee - were supported by the Nursing Students Association in their efforts to support the nationwide Swine Flu Vaccination Program.

Specifically, I would like to thank Miss Jean Doyle, Mrs. Mary Langelle, the Campus Center staff, and those nursing students who helped staff the clinic.

Sincerely,
Michael Skinner

On ticketing

Dear Editor:

I am writing to complain about the parking situation around here -- not so much the lack of parking spaces, I can understand that and live with, but what rips me off is the parking tickets that Campus Police give out.

If someone is parked in a fire lane or near a hydrant I think they deserve a parking ticket but I think getting a \$10 ticket (not a \$2 ticket like Fitchburg City Police give out) for parking a place like near the dorms is really bad news.

For example, I got a ticket for parking near the dorm where the sign says "resident staff". Who or what is a "resident staff"? There was not a car around and when I returned to my car (and ticket) one hour later there was still not a car around so obviously I wasn't denying anyone a space that they for some reason deserved more than I did. I think we put out enough money at this school to be able to park closer than 2 miles away from the campus. Also why are certain parking spaces saved for certain groups for example whoever resident staff is. Do they pay a certain amount to have this space saved?

Another thing -- if we must have these traffic tickets why are they \$10 instead of \$2. Does Campus Police have to raise a certain revenue? If so, have them sell candy bars or something. People get ripped off every day and is Campus Police going to join in too?

a '79er

P.S. Please excuse misspelling, etc. When you edit this please try to retain the message I'm trying to put across. Thank you.

By the way Rhetoric has really improved over the past year and has become a much better newspaper. Keep up the good work!!

Editor's Note:

Thank you for the compliment. It's nice to be appreciated! Also, resident staff is those people such as house mothers and resident counsellors who work in the dorms. The spaces are reserved for them to be near their work, and also if there is an emergency where they would need their cars, such as an accident in the dorm.

We get letters

On computers

Dear Editor:

On November 24 your paper carried an article that alleges to be an interview I gave to Ms. Fiore. I am very disturbed by a number of inaccurate statements made in that article, inappropriateness of the portion of the interview included, and the importance to the students, of the part seemingly deemed by her as trivial (and thus omitted altogether) from an interview which was characterized by her, when she first approached me to be helpful to our students.

First of all let me point out that there is no Computer Science Department at FSC at this time, contrary to what was stated in the article. However, there is a Computer Science degree program that is in the Physics Department.

Students enrolled in the program are encouraged, depending naturally, on their strength and interest, to concentrate in one of the three areas as described below:

1. Computer hardware - By doing independent study or a project under the supervision of a member of the Physics Department.

2. Computer logic or Computer software - In this case the student is encouraged to take further advanced courses in pure or applied mathematics.

3. Business aspect of computer science - If a student is (as many of our transfer students from the Community Colleges are) interested in data processing, programming and other business related applications he or she will be advised to take some courses from the newly established Business Administration curriculum.

Now I shall proceed to reconstruct the interview I gave Ms. Fiore on November 4th in the more traditional format of

More commentary and letters appear on Page Two.

question and answer approach.

Q. Why is the Computer Science program in the Physics Department?

A. In most colleges and universities it is part of their Electrical Engineering program. It is therefore very reasonable and natural for it to be in our department at FSC, as you well know we do not have engineering departments at this college.

Q. Do you offer anything that a student with no science or mathematics background (like myself) could take?

A. Yes, we normally have 3 - 4 sections of CS 10 every semester. These used to be our bread and butter courses, so to speak, until recently. But as of this year we are witnessing a degree of sophistication and maturity on the part of such students, as they become more and more acquainted with digital calculators, etc., they seem to opt for more challenging and difficult courses such as CS 15 and 16.

Q. Can our students compete with graduates of other institutions in the ever-tightening job market?

A. We have some excellent students in the program that can hold their own. Frankly speaking, they may encounter certain amount of intellectual snobism and anti-state college sentiments, but nothing that they should not be able to overcome with some self-confidence and aggressiveness.

Esmail Valanejad, PhD.
Chairman, Physics Department

(Editor's Note: The Rhetoric regrets that Doctor V. thinks we played with loaded dice, and we are happy to provide him a forum to air his proper views.)

For the memories ...we thank you

Editor's Note: Though the Rhetoric is not in the habit of publishing anonymous letters, we are so taken by the obvious truth contained herein we could not in good faith resist!

As the semester concludes, it's time to thank the Rhetoric staff for their dedication this fall. Your tireless efforts will never receive the recognition they deserve.

To the oft-criticized, black-haired beauty, your honest reporting reflected your ease as a conversationalist. To our premier headline writer, your immeasurable contributions are appreciated. Next semester, we should try to work out deals with Hertz-Rent-A-Car and our local Fotomat.

To Selma's friend, the office would have fallen victim to old Rhetoric copies without your help. To the swimmer, your reporting and advice was invaluable. Our plant in the office seemed to revive itself when it saw your smile.

To that free spirit, Zap, watch those articles attacking those who hold our pursestrings. At any rate, your page was beautiful. The blonde and the brunette under your command are also to be commended. To our sketch specialist, your work is unmatched on this campus.

To Snake, our sports page will definitely suffer with your departure. Your brand of reporting is difficult to duplicate. The Air Force's gain is our loss. To our copyreaders, the numbers of lawsuits has declined steadily.

Lastly, our advisor should be rewarded with a trip to Turkey during the semester break for all of his contributions. Without him, this issue of the paper may have been the first one of the semester. And to all those who I neglected to mention, please send your letters of criticism to the new Editor-In-Chief in January. I'm sure he'll appreciate the copy.

Sign up now for summer camping jobs

This is to announce the start of the Employment Service's New England Camping Program for

the 1977 camping season. The purpose of this program is to recruit and place interested and

qualified college students in summer camp staff positions throughout New England and eastern New York state.

There is a great need each year for students with Red Cross certified skills in Water Safety

Instruction, Canoeing, Boating, Sailing and First Aid.

The demand is also high for expedition leaders; people who can direct or truly instruct in an arts and crafts, nature, or photography program, and for

varsity athletes who can instruct in tennis, baseball, and soccer. Openings also exist for instructors of music, horseback riding, riflery, and archery.

It is important to emphasize to interested students the need for instruction skills. Even for "general" or "cabin counselor" positions one must usually be able to assist or supervise in some specialty area.

The typical salary range for instructors and specialists is \$500 - \$850 plus room and board. The typical salary range for a general or cabin counselor is \$300 - \$600 plus room and board depending on experience.

The time to apply is now! Applications will be accepted from Dec. 1st - May 30th. Most camps make their hiring decisions between Jan. 1st and April 30th.

Every two weeks a newsletter consisting of brief applicant profiles will be sent to the roughly 200 camps participating in our program. Upon the request of a member camp an applicant's complete application file will be forwarded.

Interested persons should request an application form or mail a resume to the New England Camping Program, Professional Service Center 400-2 Totten Pond Rd., Waltham, Mass. 02154.

Any reference, recommendations, student teaching evaluations, or certifications of skills should be forwarded along with one's application or resume.

Applicants must assume the responsibility to contact Mr. Wischhusen during the first week at each month to keep their application active.

He was one of a kind

Continued from Page One.

students approaching me to thank me for their good grade, or being outraged by what they got.

Either way, I can only murmur, "I'm sure that you deserved it." For that matter, I was always sure that every one of my professors knew all about me too when I was a student.

'Brigadoon'

Once in awhile, however, a student does come along who makes such a big impression that even my foggy mind can never forget him. The Fitchburg State College Players Guild's production of "Brigadoon" the other weekend brought back a lot of memories of Jeff Williams, who directed the play together with Professor Eugene Cassasa. Jeff was a freshman the year I joined the faculty at the college and I had him in one of my first classes. As a matter of fact, whenever I think of him I see him as an eager young freshman aglow in his green freshman beanie. It was, after all, a far more innocent age, when the student body was very small and when all sorts of traditions were still honored.

Jeff wasn't big, he was actually about the size of Mickey Rooney, but he was enthusiastic. He went on to perform in just about every play and musical presentation put on by the college during the four years he was here. He possessed not only great acting ability but a fine singing voice as well. In those days Professor Richard Kent used to direct the musicals and I will never forget his stirring production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" put on the tiny stage in the Behavior Science Auditorium, which was the only auditorium the college had in those days. It was one of the first times that Jeff had a chance to star and his performance impressed me greatly.

Active Years

There was hardly any aspect of student life that Jeff wasn't active in during his four years, and he ended up being President of the Student Government Association to top off his many honors. Few people ever got more out of their college years! When he graduated I think many shared the feeling that the college was not going to be quite the same again.

I suppose that Jeff was the ideal student activist of the first part of the sixties, before students everywhere became militant and campus confrontation became a way of life. There were other compelling students who left strong impressions as campus leaders in the late sixties, when the very character of Fitchburg State was changed, but they were basically a different breed. Jeff always had a sort of Andy Hardy air about him and all that was missing was a Judy Garland type to join with him in getting the gang together to put on a new show. The fifties lingered on for a long time on our campus.

chburg State was changed, but they were basically a different breed. Jeff always had a sort of Andy Hardy air about him and all that was missing was a Judy Garland type to join with him in getting the gang together to put on a new show. The fifties lingered on for a long time on our campus.

Best Class

But for all of his success as a student leader, actor, and performer, and for all of his charm and ability, the reason why he remained in my mind so sharply was that he was in the best class that I ever had at this college. Those were the days when students almost never had anything to say about what courses they wanted to take or which instructor. A person came into the college as an Industrial Arts major, or a Nursing major, or a Special Education major. He or she, with the rest of that particular major, were herded from one class to another, their programs almost completely planned for them for four years. Perhaps, in their junior or senior years, they might select one or two electives and escape from their fellow majors, but basically it was a closed system. Students were always complaining that they got to know only the people who were in the same major.

I hadn't seen Jeff for years. He is the director of music and theatre at Gardner High School (yes, he played in the college band too!). For a dozen years he has been active in the High Tor Summer Theatre and is now the associate producer-director of it with Professor Cassasa. His wife Laurie is an outstanding actress in her own right and active in the Bull Run Dinner Theatre Company in Shirley. He has been around; we simply hadn't run into each other.

Looked Older

Then, about two months ago, I met him in a local store. "Hello Jeff," I said. He answered and we talked for a few moments about our activities. I was saddened to see that he looked older, because that meant that I was older too. But he was still that same basic person I had noticed as a freshman underneath the funny little beanie that all freshmen used to have to wear.

For once I think it might be nice to pay a little homage to at least one of the people who not only give us faculty members a job, but who also make the job of teaching meaningful for us. Watching "Brigadoon" the other night brought back many memories for at least this faculty member.

Personally speaking

Moey,

Here's your 4.0 inroommates - good luck kid.

I'll never sleep in the lobby again!

Rino,

Go break -- this is the trucka, hey, where's slapjack?

Jody

I really hope you and Miss Wisconsin never meet.

Nance,

We're pretty, yuh, wicked pretty!

Irene,

Can we play cop again?

Fourth Floor

Even if I don't always act it, I love you all, thanks for putting up with me and good luck on finals.

Your Christmas Carole conductor

What does Decker have to say?

-Eng. Comp. I

"The Older ones are so grateful!"

Ben Franklin

Poopsie,

We all get a chuckle out of this deal. But we still say NO DICE!

F.U. Volan

Welcome Home Bobby.

Love Rella

What do you call Santa's elves?

Subordinate Clauses.

Merry Christmas Backseat--

Love and kisses from your Secret Santa

Camp Riverwood Retreat Center

Announces:

CROSS COUNTRY SKI WEEKEND

COST: \$25.00 Per Person

INCLUDES: Trail Fees, Lodging, Meals

RENTALS: Available On Site

DOWNHILL: Areas Close By

LOCATION: Camp Riverwood With Miles Of Beautiful Trails

CONTACT: Henry Brehm

Camp Riverwood

North Ashburnham Road

Winchendon, MA 01475

297-0229



There are facilities available to serve any type of group-club, etc.

Old Herlihy won't be closed down after all

By KEVIN BURKE
Rhetoric News Staff

Herlihy will not be closed after the next semester as earlier reported. However renovations are still planned over the summer months.

The renovations will include new carpeting, painting of the common room areas, and renovation of the presently empty recreation room -- the estimated cost for this is \$100,000. This is all preliminary work that will not have to be redone when renovation will be completed.

The reason for the halting of the closing was over the topic of floating a 40 year bond issue on the building. Herlihy is presently 20 years old. Planners felt this was not feasible because after the bond is paid off, the building will be 60 years old.

Oh you can add too, huh?

So, although Herlihy won't be getting a complete face-lift, they'll be working on the acne over the summer.

In-verse

Poetry

To paint a picture so vivid in a mind
Where color has brilliance and faces are distinct,
A character will unfold as each line is read.

These things are poetry and as I write,
Each line has meaning as I describe ;
I perceive the way you should see.

Just yesterday I penned some inspiration which was worthless to you--
Because you never searched for meaning.

There is a sadness in writing Poems so sublime that you won't see
The glisten of love in someone's eyes.

The mind works wonders
But the words have to be right
Your imagination must help you read.

And the colors blur
As the vivid pictures fade

For the poem has been understood.

bmh

Yule fuel

The following poem is dedicated to Suzanne and Maria. We miss and love you both; the college lost a lot when you guys left.

In submitting this to the paper we hope some of the happiness and laughter we had together will be shared by others now that Christmas is almost here.
'Twas the nite before Christmas, the party was on...
Not a reindeer was missing, yet they were all gone!

The Bud was pre-chilled in the bath tub with care,
With hopes that no stranger would wonder in there!

Rudolf was warm and all snuggled in bed
With hopes that his girlfriend would do as she said

With a Bud in one hand and a joint in the other,
they are settled down to tie on another.

When outside the house there arose such a clatter;
the Vice Squad was there to see what was the matter.

They busted the house to make an arrest,

but joined in the fun and got screwed like the rest.

Then Santa came in and broke up the fun 'cause it was time to give presents to everyone!

On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer, and Vixen,
on Donner, on Cupid, on Comet, and Blitzen.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Tara & Doreen

Patience

Whence cometh this calm,
O Thou who art cast into the outer darkness,
the chimerical abuss of this mirage of existence,
and up upon the shores of madness;
that you should appear so enraptured,

so transparently enravished?
Released from the synchrony of the labyrinth of pathos, enveloped in the yielding of the tempest of confusion and precarious desire,
unblest of the insuppressible compulsion to succumb beneath the convulsive, paroxysmal waves of chaos, in bellicose

contemplation of this desolate state, being separated from that excellent essence which alone endows life,

that the iniquity in spurious impetuosity might perish and invidious sabotage of consciousness cease;

I continuously imagine your sublime loveliness scintillating, penetrating the achromic moment with resplendence, annulling and vanishing the mindless, evanescent torment conceived in the immanent shallows of dazed comprehension.

Stephen Johnson

To Maureen

For Maureen,
I can't pave the streets golden for you,
Or pay your way through life
No, I can't buy you happiness.

But, I can smile for you,
And laugh when you want me to
I will be here if you need me.

We will be parting soon,
But, only in physical presence
Because the love of a friend never ends.

good luck, with love,
Bridget

Lost 'n' Found

Any of the following articles may be claimed at the information desk at the Campus Center.

1 Make-up Bag-Flower print
Hats and gloves
1 belt

3 pair of glasses
(1 pr gold wire octagon rims in blue & green tapestry case)
(1 pr silver wire rims without a case)
(1 pr sunglasses in black frame with a brown case)
Key case - black
Assorted keys and key rings
Books
2 Jackets (1 blue) (1 brown)
1 sweater
Calculator charger
Assorted earrings (single)
1 bracelet



"Furthermore, please notice that I am adequately clothed."

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE

The Sisters of the Adelphian Society would like to wish all the students and faculty at Fitchburg State College a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! (Good Luck on your finals)

DR. HOOK And The James Montgomery Band



"Sylvia's Mother"

"Only Sixteen"

"If Not You"

"Cover of the Rolling Stone"

"A Little Bit More"

— In Concert —

Thursday, December 16, 8 P.M.

Wallace Civic Center, 1000 John Fitch Hwy, Fitchburg

Seats \$6.50, \$6.00, \$5.00

Tickets at Civic Center ; All Ticketrons ; Fitchburg Music Store ; Music Box,
Fitchburg ; Electronic World Leominster ; Music Forum, Gardner

A Baron Productions Presentation



* Films
* Music
* Poetry
* Theater

L' Art pour L' Art

The Arts

Audience charmed

When a poem fits, it home hits

A Rhetoric Review

By BEVERLY S. CRONIN

As a flute charms the snake to dance, so Jaimy Gordon and William Keough charmed the audience at a recent Poetry Reading. The Fitchburg Art Museum, under the direction of Peter Timmes, hosted this special event December 1.

William Keough, professor of English at Fitchburg State College, was introduced by comrade John McGrail who described his poetry as reminiscent of the tightness of Rimbaud and Tennyson with a distinct original humor. Keough's poetry is diversified. We were treated to such varied subjects as goldfish, "our slicker bodies shivering in plastic," and those proverbial elbows which can become so fatal in bed.

One has the feeling that Keough's poems are written from the heart. There is that combination of wit with subjective feelings that offer universal appeal. All heads nod in agreement or recognition with each new poem.

Some Serious

The almost continuous flow of laughter was interrupted by some of his more serious poems. A profound silence filled the room with the reading of one poem entitled "In Answer to the Question in Your Eyes." The poem is as follows, "The thing is - I couldn't love you more - without dying - right here."

The short introduction offered with each poem enhanced their meaning. Thus, the audience was able to more fully enjoy and appreciate them. The rapport established between the audience and speaker was something special. At once everyone was friends. It was as if we all had stepped into someone's parlor. "Suspect the best" said Keough at the end. Well, all who did were not disappointed.

Contrast

Jaimy Gordon, poet in residence for the state of Rhode Island, provided a sharp contrast to Bill Keough's more conventional reading. Ms. Gordon was introduced by Frank Quinn, as a combination of Janis Joplin and Emily Dickinson. Looking back, this was evidently an attempt to prepare the audience for what was to come.

Jaimy read and dramatized her work. She began by acting out an interview. With cigar in mouth



she was the interviewer, and without, the interviewee. Immediately this set the tone. She was different - consistently improbably and wildly hilarious.

Then Jaimy revealed part of a character called Evangeline, from a forthcoming book. Unfortunately for Evangeline her view of the world, as divulged to her by a Miss Precock, her instructor, is limited and quite distorted. Through a misinterpretation going all the way back to David and Milcah, Evangeline was erroneously led to believe that the shape of a man's body resembled that of a turtle. Alas, poor Evangeline.

Roles

The highlight of Jaimy's performance was a dramatic presentation of a piece she calls "Masks," which purported to deal with the many different roles of woman - virgin, lover, crone, etc. The audience was roaring with laughter throughout this act and the air was electric with her energy. However, the costumes and the theatricals may have distracted from the essence of this piece of ingenuity.

The fact that the audience was laughing so hard made it difficult to concentrate on the words. One thing is certain, Jaimy has not lost her sense of play.

Response

Immediately following the reading there was an opportunity for the audience to meet the poets. Comments from the audience such as "Jaimy is a naturally funny person" and "I thoroughly enjoyed Bill's poetry" accurately reflect the mood of the entire audience. This is important, as the audience acts as an arbitrator in determining the success or failure of an event.

The success of this Poetry Reading lends needed support for this type of event and will help assure that more readings will be held in this area. This reading was sponsored by the Worcester County Poetry Association. Frank Quinn, president, is enthusiastic over this type of positive response. Several more readings are scheduled for the spring. Watch for them as advertised. Each reading promises to be different and entertaining, something you will not want to miss.

Dear Selma--

Your column (or lack of one) may be a joke, but this letter is not.

There are probably other students like me but who knows? (who cares?) -- which brings me to my problem. (Actually, I would like to be removed from it.)

I am descending into a dark, black, cavernous depression. The reason? I have to leave the Burg to go Student teach and I went home this past weekend (for Thanksgiving) to find it unbearable. I will miss getting blown out of my sneakers, I will miss the 43 cent beers and everything that goes with them. Also my sex life will cancel out. Instead I will have to come home at the "right" time (whatever that is), no more smoking grass in my room or losing my mind on weekends. I will have to stay in at night and write lessons plans and correct homework.

In short -- I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE IT! The more I think about it, the more panic-stricken and depressed I get. What can I do to ease my mind and "slide into home"?

Name withheld

Dear Name Withheld--

I don't think you should get too upset about living at home again. Just remember your old high school tactics -- get together with a few friends and go out drinking and smoking and getting laid.

And remember, the Burg will still be here on weekends. I would offer you my apartment for the semester, but unfortunately I have already sublet it, as I am moving in with a diamond merchant from South Africa. Good luck, and I hope you have as much fun next semester as I will!!

Selma



Enchanting enchantress

Things looking good for Falcons on ice

By FRED SONGIN

Fitchburg State Hockey Coach Tom Christopher is a happy man. At his tree business in Fitchburg, he outlined the prospects for the 1976-1977 season in glowing terms.

He sees "the best team I've had the opportunity to coach here at Fitchburg State College" and an expanded hockey budget as two factors which should help produce a winning season.

Hockey Budget

The budget cuts that everyone here at Fitchburg State College is so familiar with, hit the hockey program extremely hard last year. "It was devastating", Christopher states. In fact, it was the main cause for our dismal 18 and 4 showing last season. The financial situation became so acute, that the players and the coaching staff were forced to raise a thousand dollars themselves, in order to keep the program going.

Injuries

A lack of money led to a lack of practice ice time, which,

needless to say, is a necessity. This, in turn, led to a rash of serious injuries to Fitchburg State College players, due to poor conditioning, in the second half of the 1976 campaign. This distressed Christopher very much. "As a coach, my first concern is for the physical welfare of my players. In simple terms, we were getting pushed around because we weren't in shape. 75 per cent of the injuries incurred by our players last year would never have happened had we the money to institute a proper training program."

Christopher also feels that making players pay to play, as was the case last year, makes it next to impossible to keep team morale high and players disciplined. "We had a situation where people were saying, 'I paid as much as so and so, then why aren't I playing as much?' This is not a very good way to run an athletic program."

Top-Notch

Fitchburg State College is located in a geographical area

long noted for perennial hockey powers. Christopher is quick to acknowledge the fact that his program is not on a par with those of say, Boston College or Harvard, but he states emphatically, "Fitchburg State College is to be considered a top-notch Division-3 team". Most of the schools in the upper divisions have hockey rosters that read like an Ontario Census, being comprised of more than 75 per cent Canadian players.

Fitchburg State College, on the other hand, draws it's players from the Eastern and Central Massachusetts area entirely. This does not, however, mean that they are of an inferior calibre. Christopher feels that, in the past several years, the minor league hockey programs in the Massachusetts area have been producing quality hockey players at such a fast rate that, "there is now what could be called a surplus of talent, and the level of play in college has benefitted from it. Ten years ago, all the top notch players went to a school

like Boston College or Harvard, now, because of their greater number, you'll find them in all divisions."

Scholarships

Christopher believes the main stumbling block standing in the hockey program's way is that of not being able to offer scholarships to attract players to the school. "We do recruit on a limited basis," he says, "but we are severely hampered by the fact that all we can offer to a prospective player is a work-study program". He feels that the Fitchburg State College Hockey Program has some excellent factors working in it's favor. He believes that the Wallace Civic Center, Fitchburg State College's home rink, is one of the finest facilities in New England. He also notes that his team plays an excellent schedule, including such Division-2 teams as Holy Cross and Salem State.

But unfortunately, athletic scholarships aren't allowed at state colleges. He realizes, however, that at some state schools, rules are bent a little, and some athletic scholarships

are given." But we don't do that here at Fitchburg State College. I wish we did."

Tom Christopher really enjoys coaching hockey at Fitchburg State College. He takes special pride in the way many of his former Fitchburg State players have continued on in the business and professional worlds. He states, "coaching is still very enjoyable to me. If it weren't, I guess I wouldn't be doing it."

When asked about any long range plans for the Fitchburg State College Hockey Program, he replied "when I came here five years ago I set up several goals for myself. One was to expand the actual schedules, which we have, from nine games to twenty-five. Another was to upgrade the calibre of hockey which I now feel is excellent, and also to upgrade our budget, which is not very satisfactory. My final two goals would be to initiate a financial aid program for our players, which would be the frosting on the cake, and finally, to establish a Junior Varsity team as a feeder system for our varsity."



A TIE ISN'T QUITE AS GOOD AS A WIN, but it sure beats being in the loss column. In fact, ties and wins combined just about balanced out the loss column for these never-say-die field hockey

players at FSC. This year they proved their mettle. Next year, who knows what heights these Falcons can soar to?

(Rhetoric Photo)

Selma climbs

Jay Street in Fitchburg is a tremendous experience on an icy evening. It is an old cobblestone hill with an 89.9 degree slope.

Rhetoric Staff Reporter Selma O. Devine was recently seen walking up Jay Street backwards. When pressed to explain her behavior, Selma innocently replied that she was having great difficulty in walking down the hill in a dignified, lady-like manner.



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